

In the claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (New) A remotely configurable firewall comprising:

a firewall comprising at least one virtual host for providing network connectivity between a source and destination of IP-compliant traffic, the at least one virtual host having associated configuration files;

a configuration virtual host operatively disposed in said firewall, said configuration virtual host including an HTML-based configuration interface for allowing remote management of configuration files over an IP-compliant connection.

7. (New) The firewall of claim 6, wherein said remote management of said configuration files is only allowed from a specified secure client.

8. (New) The firewall of claim 7, wherein a plurality of virtual hosts may be configured using said configuration virtual host.

9. (New) The firewall of claim 8, wherein a remote user is authenticated prior to being granted access to said configuration interface.

10. (New) The firewall of claim 6, wherein said remote management of said configuration files occurs using a Web browser.

11. (New) An apparatus for remotely configuring a gateway device comprising:

gateway device means for providing network connectivity between a source and destination of IP-compliant traffic,;

configuration means for configuring said gateway device means;

remote management means for remotely managing said configuration means, the remote management means comprising an HTML-based configuration interface for allowing remote management of said configuration means over an IP-compliant connection.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said remote management of said configuration files is only allowed from a specified secure client.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein a plurality of virtual hosts may be configured using said configuration virtual host.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a remote user is authenticated prior to being granted access to said configuration interface.

15. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said remote management of said configuration files occurs using a Web browser.

16. (New) A remote configurator for a gateway device comprising:
a remote configurator module operatively disposed in a gateway device;

at least one virtual host for providing network connectivity between a source and destination of IP-compliant traffic, the at least one virtual host having associated configuration files;

the remote configurator module being configured to provide an HTML-based configuration interface for allowing remote management of said configuration files over an IP-compliant connection.

17. (New) The remote configurator of claim 16, wherein said remote management of said configuration files is only allowed from a specified secure client.

18. (New) The remote configurator of claim 17, wherein a plurality of virtual hosts may be configured using said configuration virtual host.

19. (New) The remote configurator of claim 18, wherein a remote user is authenticated prior to being granted access to said configuration interface.

20. (New) The remote configurator of claim 16, wherein said remote management of said configuration files occurs using a Web browser.

21. (New) A remotely configurable gateway device comprising:
a gateway device for providing network connectivity between a source and destination of IP-compliant traffic;
a plurality of virtual hosts operable in said gateway device, the at least one virtual host having associated configuration files;

at least one of said plurality of virtual hosts comprising a remote configurator host;

the remote configurator host being configured to provide an HTML-based configuration interface for allowing remote management of said configuration files over an IP-compliant connection.

22. (New) The remotely configurable gateway device of claim 21, wherein said remote management of said configuration files is only allowed from a specified secure client.

23. (New) The remotely configurable gateway device of claim 22, wherein a plurality of virtual hosts may be configured using said configuration virtual host.

24. (New) The remotely configurable gateway device of claim 23, wherein a remote user is authenticated prior to being granted access to said configuration interface.

25. (New) The remotely configurable gateway device of claim 21, wherein said remote management of said configuration files occurs using a Web browser.